

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL ADANA

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SUBJECT: TURKISH PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE SISI MIK I CONTINUE

REF: ANKARA 5456

1. ON JULY 15 - 16 PRIMIN DEMIREL AND GENERAL SANCAR
(CHIEF OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF -TGS) MADE
STATEMENTS IN RESPONSE TO REPORTES' QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE
TURKISH SURVEY SHIP SISI MIK I (NEE HORA).

2. A. PRIMIN DEMIREL TOLD REPORTERS FOLLOWING HIS WEEKLY
MEETING WITH PRES. KORUTURK JULY 16 THAT THE SISI MIK I
"WILL CARRY OUT ITS TASKS UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES."
CONCERNING THE PRESENT SIX-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA LIMITS,
DEMIREL SAID, "NO ONE CAN EXTEND THE LIMITES OF
TERRITORIAL WATERS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE EXISTING
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ONE. IF THIS IS DONE, WE WILL DEFINITELY NOT ACCEPT IT.

TERRITORIAL LIMITS ARE NOT DRAWN OR DECLARED UNILATERALLY."

B. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MET JULY 15 AND ENDORSED THE NSC RECOMMENDATION THAT THE SISMİK I BEGIN ITS SURVEYS IN THE AEGEAN (REFTEL). AFTER THE MEETING DEMIREL TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE SISMİK I WOULD START WORK WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. (JULY 16 CUMHURİYET AND MILLİYET REPORT THAT THE SISMİK I WILL SAIL ON JULY 18 OR 19.) DEMIREL SAID, "I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE WILL BE (INTERFERENCE). I BELIEVE WISDOM WILL CONTROL IRRESPONSIBILITY OF THAT DEGREE. IF THERE IS INTERFERENCE WITH THEHORA WE WILL RETALIATE. MY REQUEST OF THE TURKISH PRESS IS THIS, WE DO NOT WISH THAT THERE BE A CLASH BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE ONLY WANT TO DEFEND WHAT IS OUR RIGHT." DEMIREL ALSO STATED THAT THE AEGEAN "DOES NOT BELONG TO THE GREEKS. WE DO NOT WANT A PROBLEM TO ARISE WITH THE GREEKS, BUT IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT TURKEY SHOULD EVER CONCEDE TO A SITUATION SUCH AS THE GREEK'S ANNOUNCING THE AEGEAN AS THEIR OWN LAKE."

C. TGS CHIEF SANCAR ALSO ANSWERED JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS JULY 15 ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF GREEK INTERFERENCE OF THE SISMİK I BY STATING: "IF GREECE INTERFERES WITH THE SISMİK I, WE WILL RETALIATE IN KIND. I DO NOT REGARD SUCH INTERFERENCE AS PROBABLE. HOWEVER, WE, THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES, ARE READY FOR ANY POSSIBILITY."

2. UNFORTUNATELY INDICATIVE OF THE INCREASINGLY TOUGH ATTITUDE ABOUT THE SISMİK I'S MISSION IS A RECOMMENDATION ALLEGEDLY MADE BY JUSTICE PARTY DEPUTY SINASI OSMA TO MINENERGY KILIC (AS REPORTED IN JULY 16 TURKISH DAILY NEWS) THAT THE SEISMIC SHIP'S NAME BE CHANGED TO HODRI, WHICH IS A CHALLENGE MEANING "COME AND TRY IT." SAID OSMA, HODRI WOULD BE MORE SUITABLE "BECAUSE THE GREEKS HAVE APPARENTLY STILL NOT LEARNED THE LESSON OF THE WAR OF LIBERATION AND THE CYPRUS PEACE OPERATION." MACOMBER

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